Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Autism is the third most common developmental disability, affecting approximately 1,500 South Dakotans and over 500,000 children and adults nationwide; and,

Whereas, Autism knows no racial, ethnic, social, income, lifestyle, or educational level boundaries; and,

Whereas, Autism is a lifelong neurological disability that prevents appropriate understanding of what an individual sees, hears, or otherwise senses; and,

Whereas, Autism causes severe problems in learning, verbal and nonverbal communication, and the acquisition of social interaction skills; and,

Whereas, The majority of the general public is unaware of how this complex neurological disability affects people and how to interact effectively with individuals with autism; and,

Whereas, Advocacy groups such as The Autism Society of America, founded in 1965, and the South Dakota State Autism Society, founded in 1985, are dedicated to upholding the civil, educational, and human rights of all individuals within the autism spectrum; and,

Whereas, These support groups remain committed to educating the general public about autism and providing positive behavior support for all persons with autism; and,

Whereas, Autism needs greater recognition and research to better understand this complex developmental disability and early access to accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment for all children and adults with autism:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2005, as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirty-first Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State